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(11)

EP 1 026 017 A2

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:  
09.08.2000 Bulletin 2000/32

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>: B60C 25/00, B60C 25/132

AB

(21) Application number: 00101296.2

(22) Date of filing: 27.01.2000

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE  
Designated Extension States:  
AL LT LV MK RO SI

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(30) Priority: 04.02.1999 IT MO990015

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### (54) Machine for mounting and removing special tires

(57) A machine for mounting and removing special tires consisting of a floor-mounted turret (4) which supports a unit (5) for coupling and turning wheels (6) provided with the special tires and a device (7) for transversely pushing the beads of the tires, the device being provided with means (7a) for adjusting its intervention position.

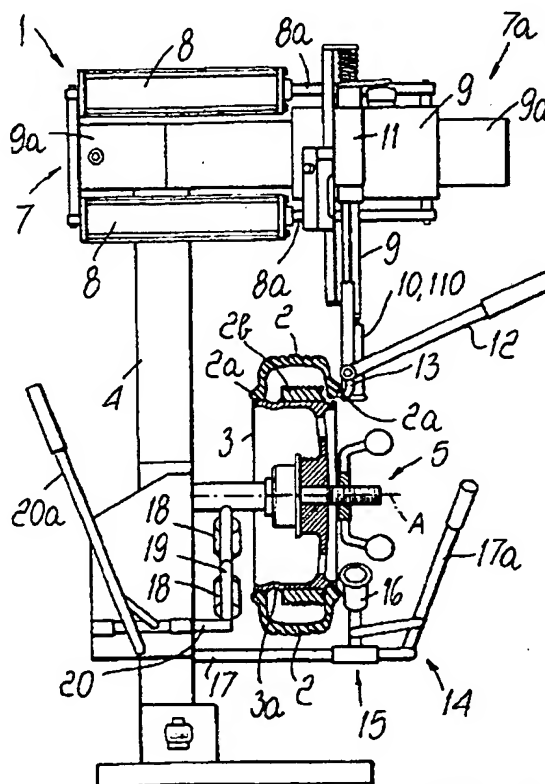


Fig. 2

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## Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a machine for mounting and removing special tires.

[0002] So-called special tires are being marketed which are capable of retaining their rolling ability even in case of puncture.

[0003] In practice, these tires are mounted on a specifically provided wheel rim, in the bead seat of which a ring of elastomeric material of adequate thickness is fitted and fixed. In case of puncture, because of the deflation of the tire, the ring rests on the ground, prevents the tire from being crushed and maintains the directional capability of the steering axle of the vehicle, improving the users' safety.

[0004] These special tires have structural characteristics which are not part of the standard features of normal tires; first and foremost, they have different diameters for the inner and the outer sidewalls, the former being greater than the latter.

[0005] Moreover, the beads define, on both sidewalls, rings for retention and resting against the corresponding edges of the wheel rim. These rings are internally reinforced with a steel cable which is adapted to prevent their radial deformation.

[0006] Mounting and removing the special tires on and from the respective wheels currently require, indeed because of their particular structure, operations which are performed manually by using levers which, in addition to the efforts that operators must perform and to the long time required for these operations, often risk damaging the wheel rim.

[0007] In order to remove the beads of the tire from their seat when the tire is deflated, the levers are in fact inserted between the lateral ring of the tire and the corresponding edge of the wheel rim, on which the lever is then rested in order to provide a fulcrum to apply force so as to lift and extract the bead.

[0008] Likewise, during mounting the tire is fitted onto the wheel rim from the sidewall that has the largest diameter and the beads are pushed manually, optionally with the aid of a hammer, into the seating channel.

[0009] The aim of the present invention is to solve the above-described problems of the prior art, providing a machine for mounting and removing special tires which allows to perform the above-described operations automatically, rapidly and without damaging the wheel rims.

[0010] Another object of the present invention is to provide a machine for mounting and removing special tires which has a simple structure, operates satisfactorily and is low in cost.

[0011] This aim, this object and others are achieved by a machine for mounting and removing special tires, characterized in that it comprises a floor-mounted turret which supports a unit for coupling and turning wheels provided with special tires, and a device for transversely pushing beads of the tires, the device being provided

with means for adjusting the intervention position.

[0012] Further characteristics and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of a preferred embodiment of a machine for mounting and removing special tires, illustrated only by way of non-limitative example in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a front view of the machine for mounting and removing special tires according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a corresponding side view thereof;

Figures 3 and 4 are side views of two steps of the removal of a special tire from its wheel rim;

Figures 5, 6 and 7 are side views of three steps of the mounting of a special tire on its wheel rim;

Figure 8 is a detail view of a possible alternative embodiment of a transverse pusher.

[0013] With reference to the above-cited figures, 1 designates a machine for mounting and removing special tires 2 from their wheel rim 3, which is constituted by a floor-mounted turret 4 on which a unit 5 for coupling and turning wheels 6 fitted with special tires 2 is mounted.

[0014] At the coupling unit 5, preferably above it, there is a pusher 7 which acts transversely on the beads 2a of the tires 2 and is provided with means 7a for adjusting its intervention position.

[0015] The wheels 6 turn about a horizontal axis A which is perpendicular to the turret 4.

[0016] The pusher 7 is constituted by two double-acting fluid-driven actuators 8 which have horizontal axes and stems 8a; the free ends of their stems 8a are rigidly coupled to a support 9 which is slidingly mounted on a guide 9a for at least one free roller 10 which has a vertical axis and is adapted to be placed in contact with the beads 2a of the tires 2.

[0017] In an alternative embodiment, the roller 10 can be replaced with two rollers 110 which are supported on the support 9 so as to be vertically co-planar and so that their rotation axes B (as shown in Figure 8) substantially converge towards the unit 5 for coupling and turning the wheels 6.

[0018] The rollers 10 can be cylindrical or frustum-shaped, with the larger flat face directed towards the center of the unit 5, for mutual contact with the beads 2a of the tires 2.

[0019] The means 7a for adjusting the intervention position of the rollers 10 (110) are constituted by a third double-acting fluid-driven actuator 11 which is mounted so as to have a vertical axis on the support 9; the rollers 10 or 110 is, or are, rigidly coupled to the free end of the stem 11a of the actuator.

[0020] The support 9 also supports a lever 12 which is articulated thereto and is provided with a claw 13 for lifting a flap of the bead 2a of the tire 2 when it is mounted on the coupling and rotation unit 5.

[0021] In a substantially opposite position with respect to the roller 10 (pair of rollers 110) relative to the unit 5 it is possible to fit a complementary presser 14 for the beads 2a, whose position can be adjusted through corresponding manual or automatic means 15; the complementary presser 14 is constituted, for the outer side of the wheel 6, by an additional roller 16 which is supported so that it can rotate freely with a vertical rotation axis and can be slidably arranged on a supporting bar 17 which protrudes at right angles from the floor-mounted turret 4 and is provided with an operating handle 17a. For the inner side, there is an additional pair of rollers 18 which are freely mounted with converging axes 18a on a corresponding support 19 which is in turn mounted so that it can slide on a second bar 20 supported by the turret 4 and also provided with an operating handle 20a.

[0022] The operation of the invention is as follows: a wheel 6, composed of a special tire 2 mounted on an adapted wheel rim 3, is fitted on the coupling and rotation means 5 in a conventional way.

[0023] During the removal of the deflated tire 2, the actuators 8 move the support 9 horizontally until the roller 10, or the pair of rollers 110, rest tangentially against the outer bead 2a of the tire 2.

[0024] The vertical actuator 11 further arranges the rollers 10 (110) accordingly.

[0025] The unit 5 then turns the wheel 6 and the actuators apply progressive traction until the rollers 10 (110) separate the bead 2a from the edge of the wheel rim 3 over an angular segment, pushing the bead towards the internal channel 3a of the wheel rim.

[0026] Rotation is interrupted and an operator then acts on the lever 12 and wedges the claw 13 between the bead 2a and the edge of the wheel rim 3, raising it; at the same time, the actuators 8 and 11 move the roller 10 (or rollers 110) on the inner side of the wheel 6, placing them in contact with the corresponding upper part of the inner bead 2a. The unit 5 is turned again and the actuators 8 apply a transverse outward thrust together with an operator who, by acting on the handle 20a, presses the pair of rollers 18 tangentially against the lower region of the inner bead.

[0027] In this manner, separation along the entire circumference is completed and the tire 2 is removed from the wheel 3 together with the inner ring 2b.

[0028] In the complementary operation for mounting the tire 2 on the wheel rim 3, the tire is placed on the unit 5 in the conventional manner; first of all, the ring 2b is fitted thereon, then the deflated tire 2 is loosely fitted thereon.

[0029] By means of the actuators 8 and 11, the roller 10 (or rollers 110) are then placed against the upper part of the outer bead 2a; in a substantially opposite position, the operator, by acting on the handle 17a, places and keeps the roller 16 pressed against the outer lower part of the bead 2a; then the unit 5 is turned and the transverse pressure applied in combination by the

rollers 10 (110) and 16 causes the outer bead 2a to gradually enter the channel 3a of the wheel rim 3.

[0030] Once the insertion of the outer bead has been completed, the rotation of the unit 5 is stopped, the rollers 10 (110) are returned into pressing contact with the inner bead 2a, and one proceeds in a similar manner, pushing the bead into the channel 3a, using, for the lower region of the wheel 6, the pair of rollers 18, which are kept pressed, again tangentially, against the bead 2a by the operator, who acts on the handle 20a.

[0031] Once the above-mentioned operations have been completed, the tire 2 is inflated so as to make the beads 2a adhere to the respective sidewalls of the wheel rim 3 and then the wheel 6 is removed from the unit 5.

[0032] Thanks to the structure of the machine 1, the machine can also be used for mounting and removing conventional tires, taking care to repeat the above-described operations for both sides of a wheel.

[0033] In practice it has been observed that the above-described invention achieves the intended aim and object.

[0034] The invention thus conceived is susceptible of numerous modifications and variations, all of which are within the scope of the inventive concept. Thus, for example, the rollers 16 and 18 can be actuated not only manually but also automatically by using additional fluid-driven actuators.

[0035] All the details may further be replaced with other technically equivalent ones.

[0036] In practice, the materials employed, as well as the shapes and the dimensions, may be any according to requirements without thereby abandoning the scope of the protection of the appended claims.

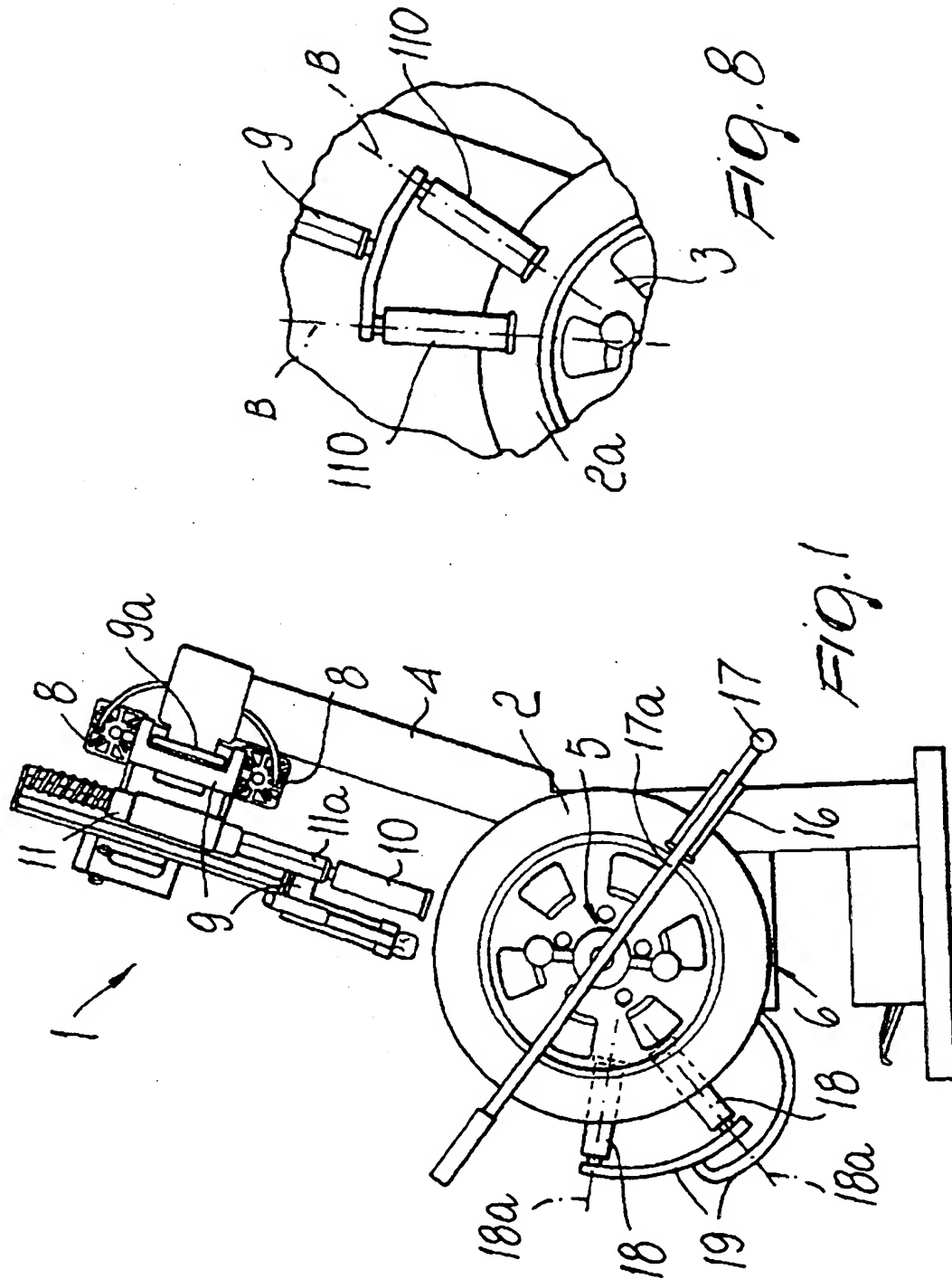
[0037] The disclosures in Italian Patent Application No. MO99A000015 from which this application claims priority are incorporated herein by reference.

[0038] Where technical features mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, those reference signs have been included for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and accordingly, such reference signs do not have any limiting effect on the interpretation of each element identified by way of example by such reference signs.

## Claims

1. A machine for mounting and removing special tires, characterized in that it comprises a floor-mounted turret which supports a unit for coupling and turning wheels provided with special tires, and a device for transversely pushing beads of the tires, the device being provided with means for adjusting the intervention position.
2. The machine according to claim 1, characterized in that said turning occurs about a horizontal axis which is perpendicular to said turret.

3. The machine according to claim 1, characterized in that said pusher is constituted by a set of double-acting fluid-driven actuators with horizontal axes, in which free ends of stems of said actuators are rigidly coupled to a support, which can slide back and forth on guiding means, for at least one freely rotating roller whose axis is parallel to the turret and which is adapted to be placed in tangential rotary contact with the beads of the tires in an upper region thereof. 5
4. The machine according to claim 1, characterized in that said pusher is constituted by a set of double-acting fluid-driven actuators with horizontal axes, in which free ends of stems of said actuators are rigidly coupled to a support, which can slide back and forth on guiding means, for a pair of freely rotating rollers which are arranged on a mutual vertical plane of arrangement and whose axes of rotation substantially converge towards said coupling and turning unit. 10 15 20
5. The machine according to claims 3 and 4, characterized in that said at least one roller is frustum-shaped, with a larger flat face directed downwards in order to lie adjacent to said tire beads so as to cause an inward movement of said tire beads. 25
6. The machine according to claims 1, 3 and 4, characterized in that said means for adjusting the intervention position are constituted by a third double-acting fluid-driven actuator mounted with a vertical axis on said support, said at least one roller being rigidly coupled to a stem of said third actuator. 30 35
7. The machine according to the preceding claims, characterized in that said support supports an articulated lever which is provided with a claw for lifting a flap of the bead of a tire mounted on said coupling and turning unit. 40
8. The machine according to the preceding claims, characterized in that a complementary presser for the beads of the tires is arranged below said coupling and turning unit, the position of said complementary presser being adjustable through corresponding manual/automatic means, said presser acting in a diametrically opposite region with respect to said at least one roller. 45 50
9. The machine according to claim 8, characterized in that said complementary presser comprises, for an outer side of the tire, an additional roller which is supported so that it can rotate freely with a vertical rotation axis and can be slidingly arranged on a first bar which protrudes at right angles from said floor-mounted turret and is provided with an operating handle and, for an inner side of the tire, an additional pair of free rollers which have converging axes and are mounted on a support which is in turn slidingly associated with a second bar which lies opposite said first bar and is also provided with an operating handle. 55
10. The machine according to the preceding claims, characterized in that a median-upper portion of said turret is inclined towards a rear part of said machine.



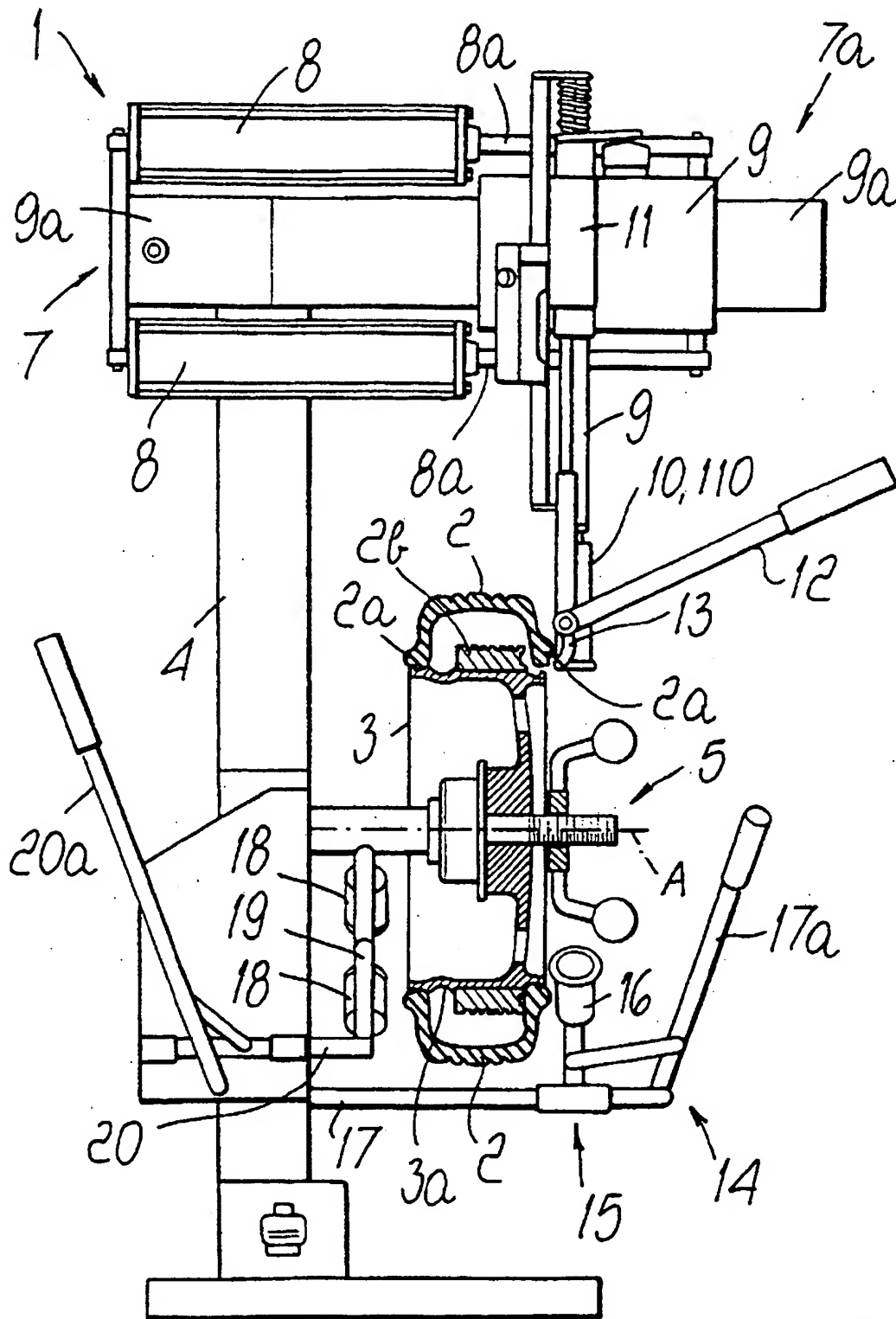


Fig. 2

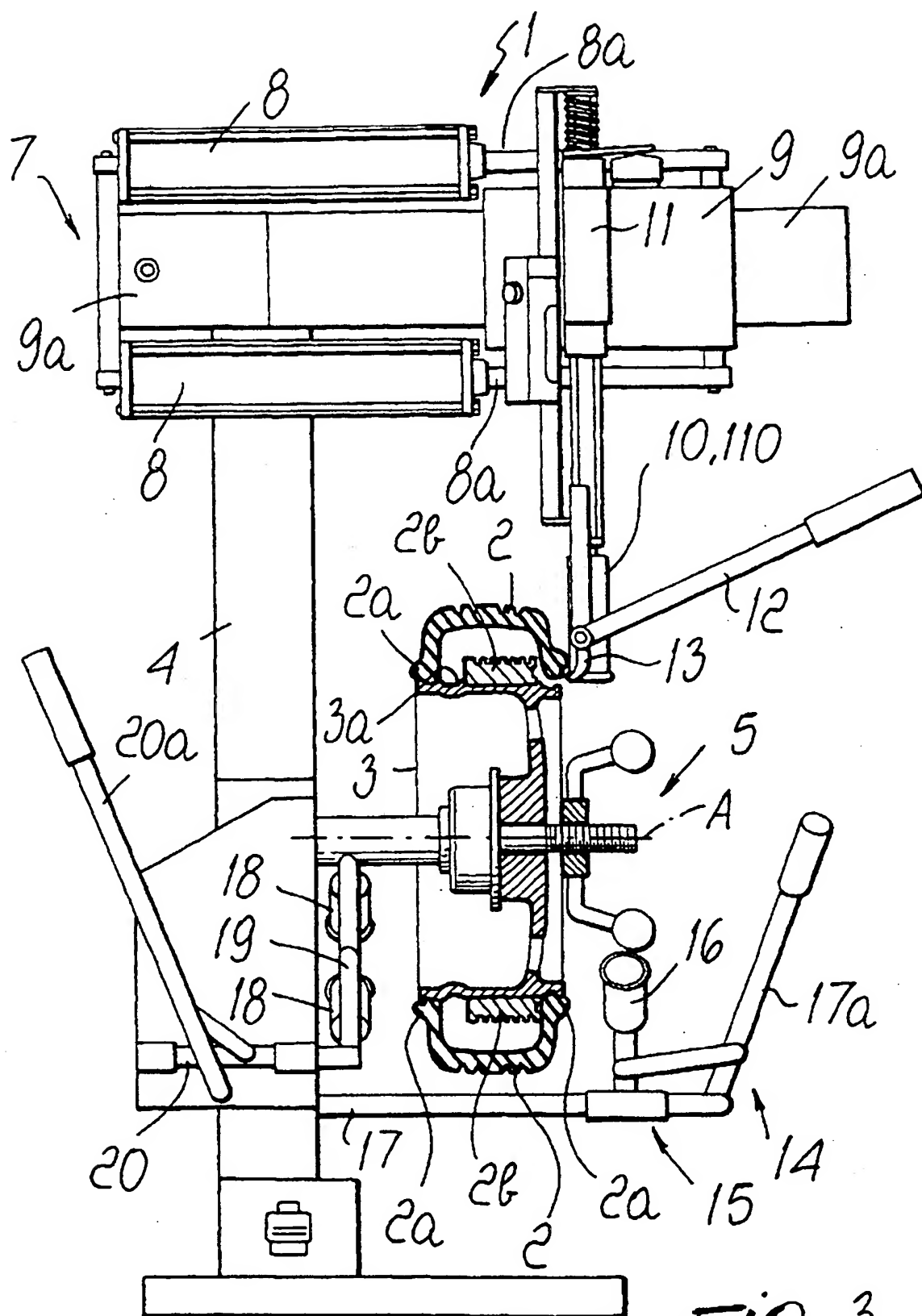
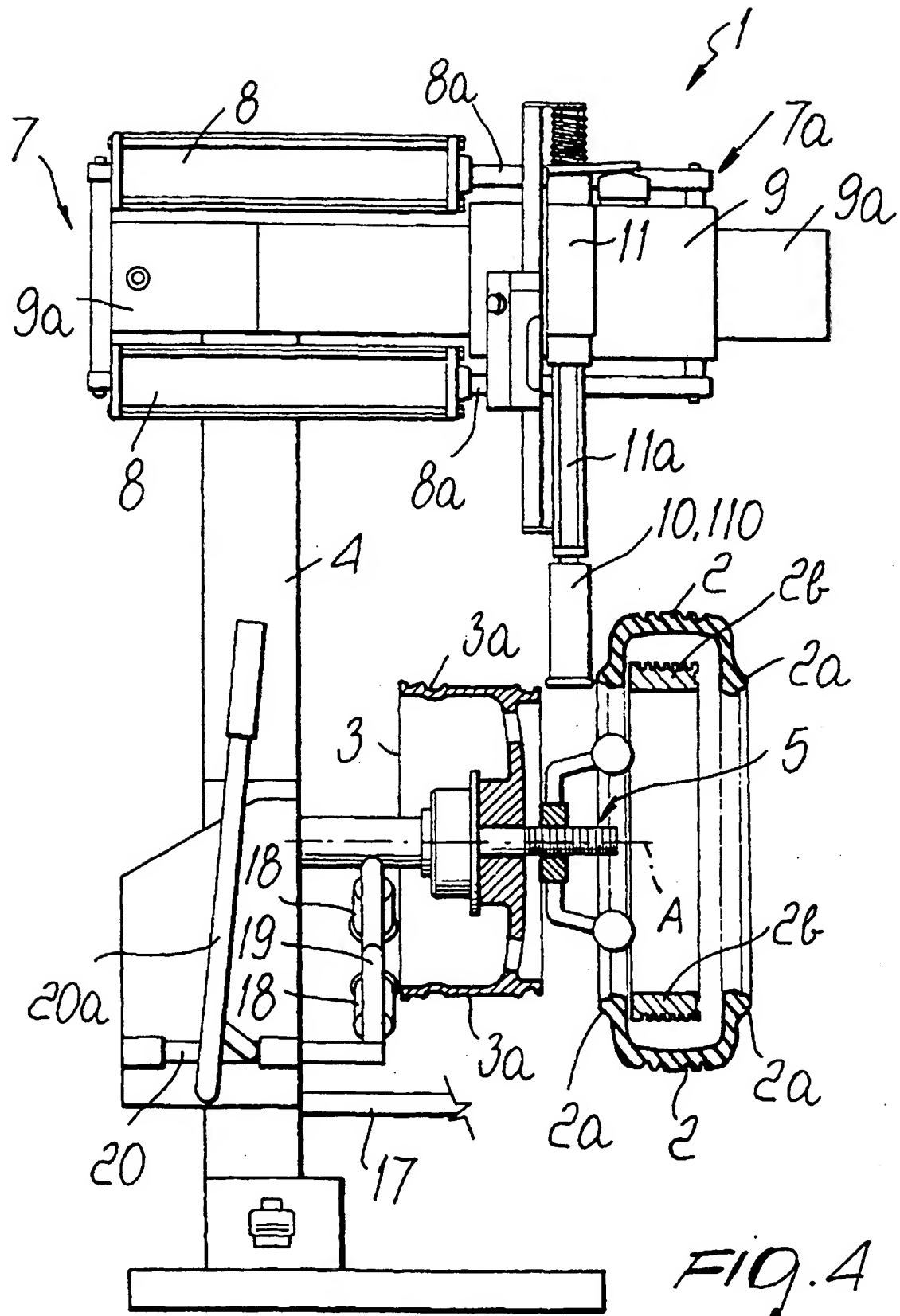
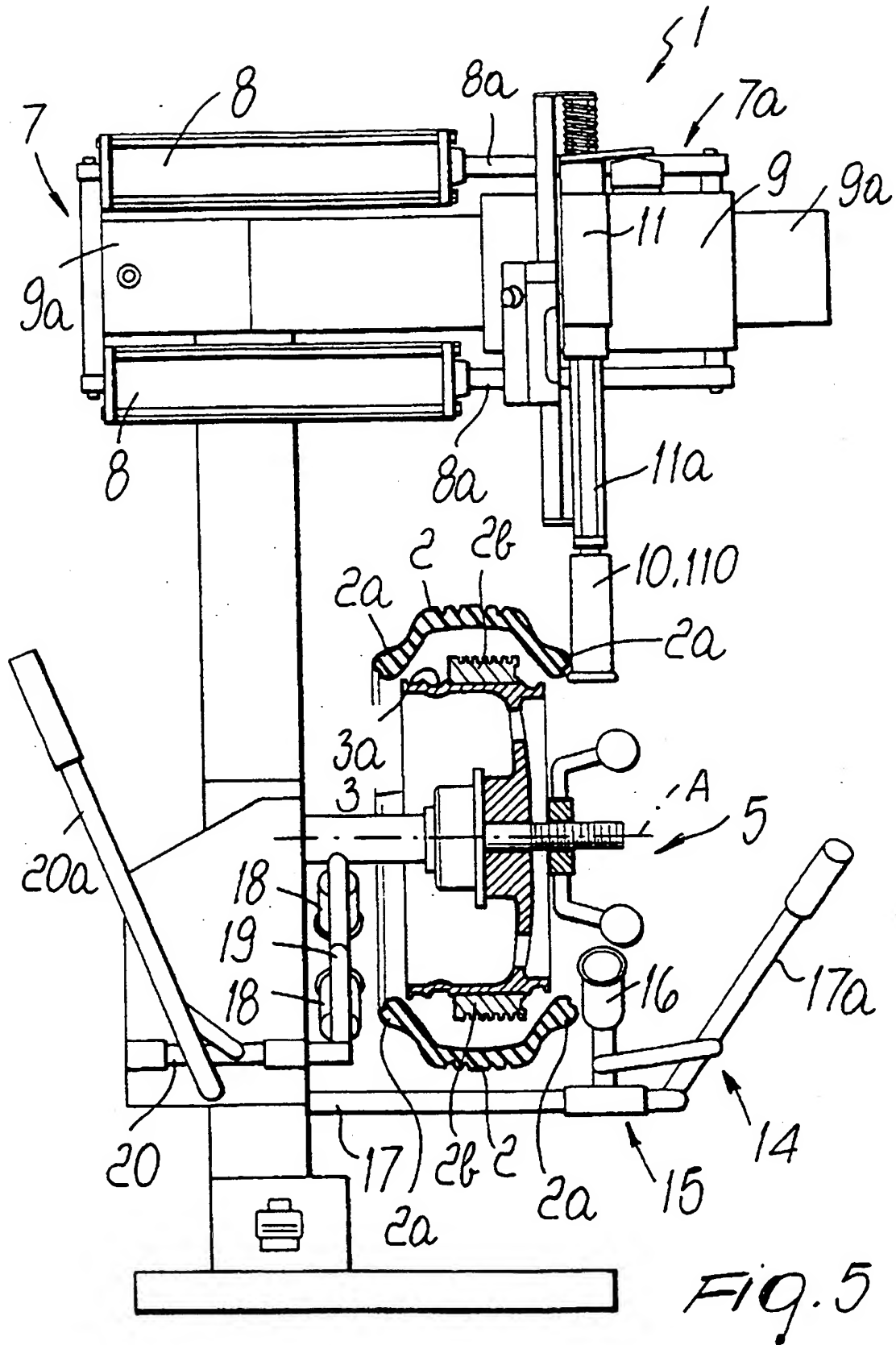
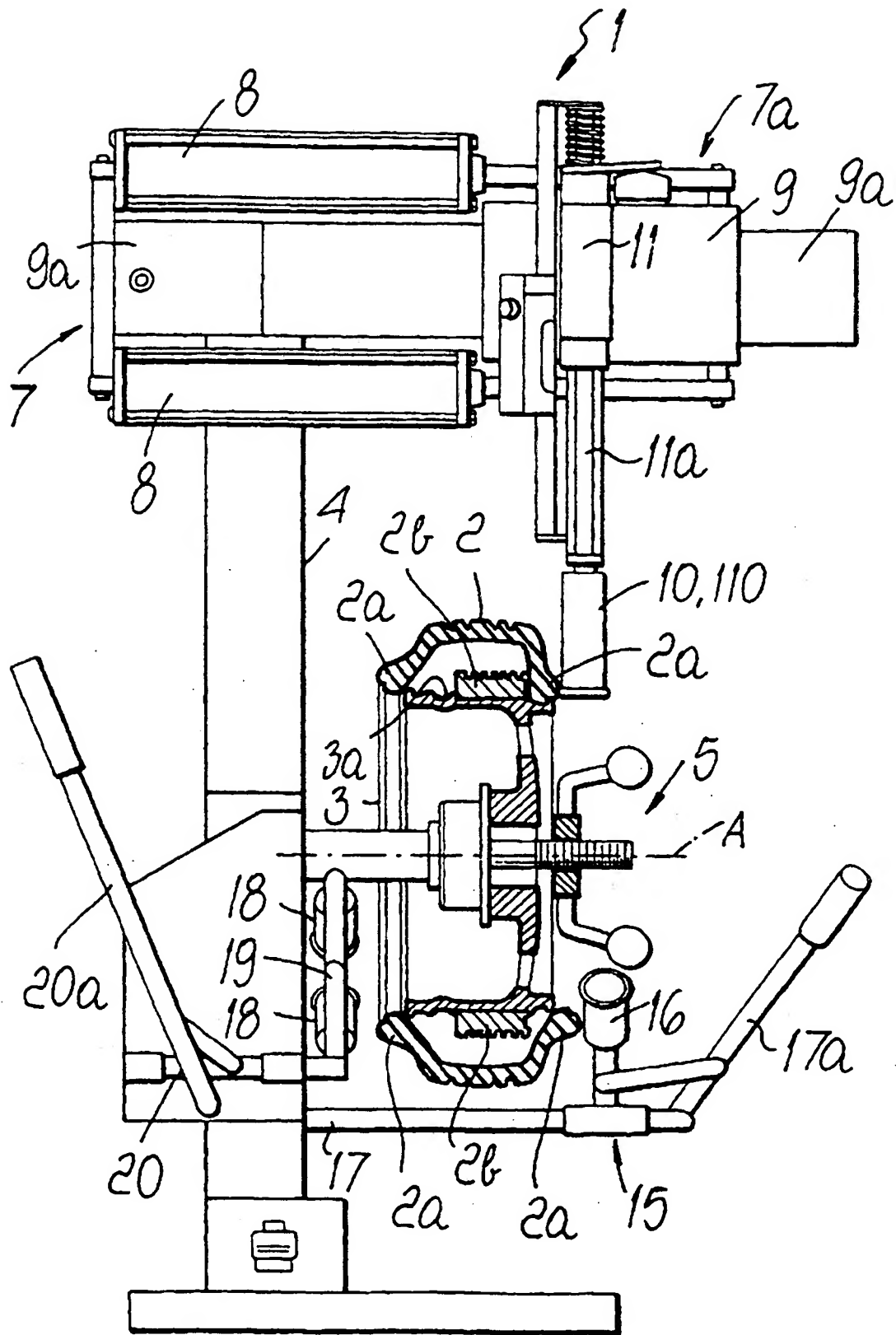


Fig. 3









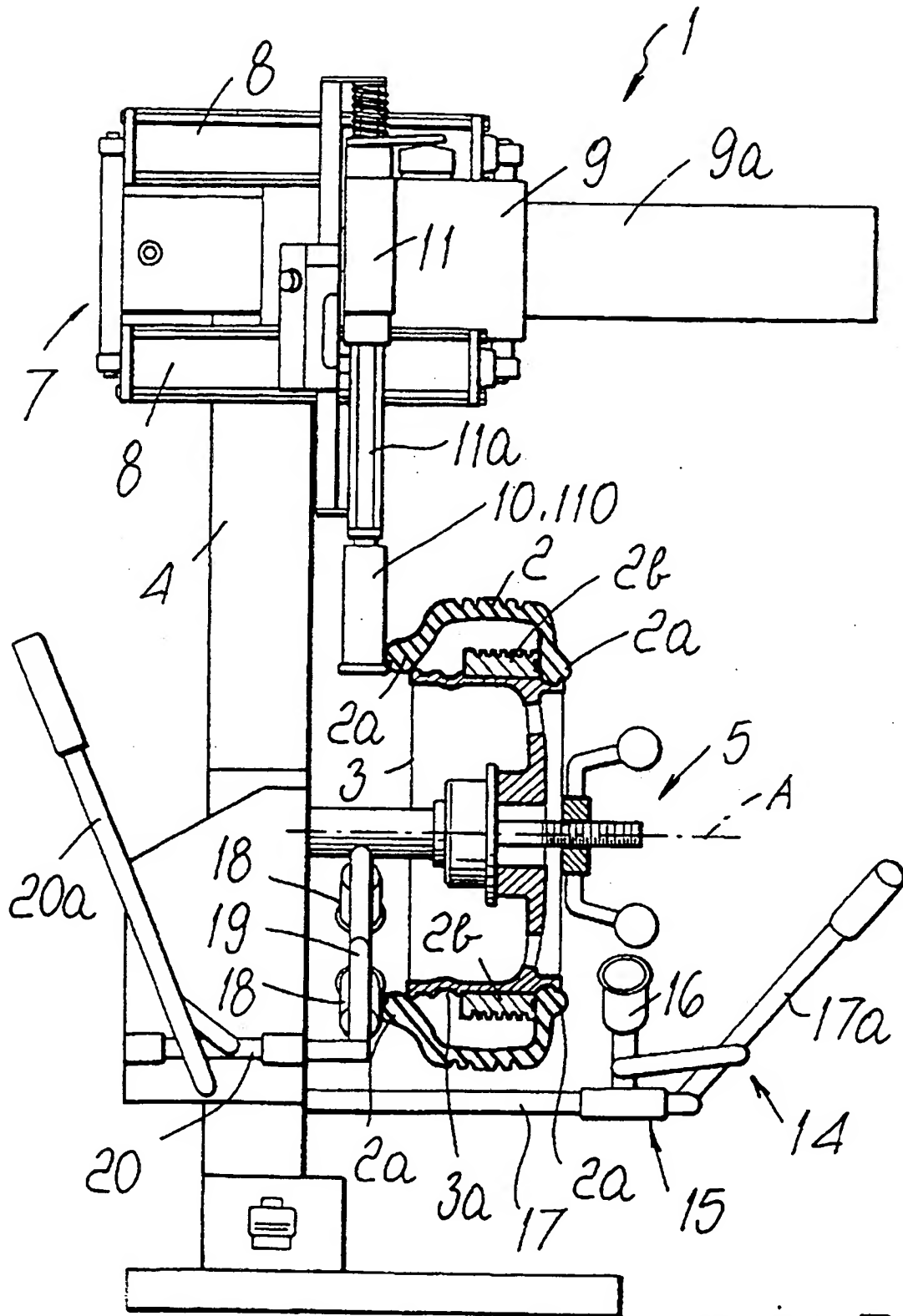


Fig. 7

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(11)

EP 1 026 017 A3

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:  
29.08.2001 Bulletin 2001/35

(51) Int Cl.7: B60C 25/00, B60C 25/132,  
B60C 25/138

(43) Date of publication A2:  
09.08.2000 Bulletin 2000/32

(21) Application number: 00101296.2

(22) Date of filing: 27.01.2000

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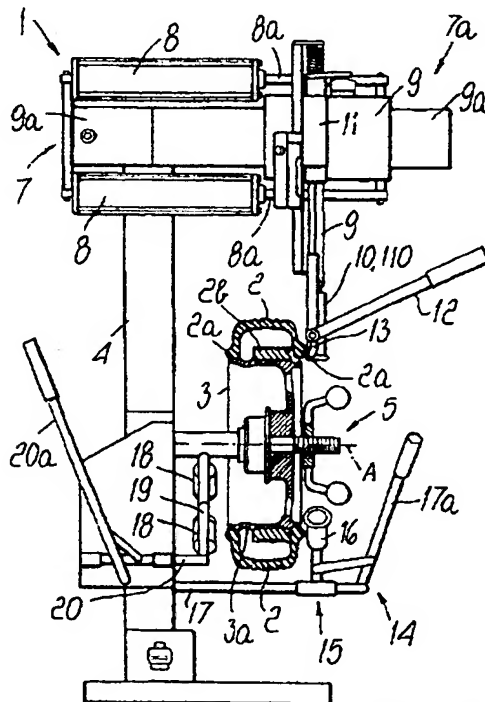


FIG. 2

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 10 1296

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.7)
A	EP 0 482 701 A (CORGI SPA) 29 April 1992 (1992-04-29) * column 2, line 38 - line 55; figure 1 *	1	B60C25/00 B60C25/132 B60C25/138
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.CI.7)
			B60C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>9 July 2001</b>	Examiner <b>Smeyers, H</b>
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone  Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category  A : technological background  O : oral-written disclosure  P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention  E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date  D : document cited in the application  L : document cited for other reasons  &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EP 00 10 1296 (1992-04-29)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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EP 00 10 1296

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